most beautiful and attractive tourist destination like other islands in the world and should become a big asset for the Indian economy; and

(c) what Central assistance Government propose to give to Andaman and Nicobar Islands in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments/ UT Adminsitrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to them for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them. To facilitate the efforts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration, Government of India had prepared in 2003 a 20-Year Perspective Plan for development of tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

During the Tenth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs.6.25 lakh was sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to Andaman and Nicobar Islands for tourism related activities. The Government of india has also allocated Rs. 76.5 crore as additional Central Assistance under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme for up-gradation of tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to be utilized in 3 consecutive years, i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Development of Chandipur Beach in Orissa

600. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chandipur beach in Orissa is proposed to be developed as a tourist resort of international standards by the World Tourism Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team of the above organization has visited the place to examine its potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) A team from the World Tourism Organisation had visited Chandipur and had meetings with Collector Balasore, Local Officials, representative from NGOs and travel trade and collected relevant information material regarding tourism potential of the place. However, no specific project proposal has been received from United Nations World Tourism organisation or the State Government in this regard. As part of Central Financial Assistance, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 208.55 lakhs for the development of tourism relatd facilities at Chandipur under the project Integrated Development of Chandipur-Talasari-Udaypur-Chandaneswar-Remuna-Panchalingeswar-Nilagiri Circuit. In addition, an amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh was also sanctioned for the Golden Beach Festicval at Chandipur on Sea.

Incentive Scheme for Budget Hotels

601. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has formulated a new incentive scheme for 'budget hotels' to boost tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme will become operational?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism has announced a scheme to provide incentive to hotels of 1 to 3 star and Heritage Basic categories all over the country where the hotels projects have been commissioned and classified w.e.f. 01-04-2007 to 31-03-2008. The incentive will be in the form of capital subsidy of Rs. 2.00 lac per room subject to a maximum of Rs. 30.00 lac to one star hotel, Rs. 3.00 lac per room subject to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lac to two Star hotel, Rs. 3.00 lac per room subject to a maximum of Rs. 100.00 lac to three star and Heritage Basic category hotels.

Development of Tourism in Sikkim

†602. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated to the State of Sikkim for the development of tourism during the current financial year;

(b) the names of places identified by Government in view of tourism for spending this allocated fund, and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to promote tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Cental Financial Assistance to all States/Union Territories for development and promotion of tourism through following schemes:

(1) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits

(2) Large Revenue Generating Projects

(3) Fairs and festivals/Events

(4) Information Technology

During the Tenth Five Year Plan, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned tourism projects to the tune of Rs. 392.33 crore to all States in the North Eastern Region including Rs. 74.96 crore for Sikkim and santioned 21 projects for an amount of Rs. 5931.48 lakh in current financial year to the State of Sikkim, as per given Statement (*See* below)

The Ministry of Tourism promotes tourism to North East through dedicated media campaigns, web-site and production of publicity & collateral material. Information is also disseminated through the India tourism offices in India and abroad.

Statement

Projects sanctioned for the State of Sikkim in the year 2007-08

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Development of Assam Lingzey to Khedi Trek Route including other Tourist Infrastructure in East Sikkim	329.08
2.	Development of Community Park at Bojey and Water Garden at Hee Pul under integrated Development of Tourism, West Sikkim.	441.81
3.	Construction of flower show pavilion at Namchi in South Sikkim.	473.20

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.